

Jan 1927

ANNUAL MEETING

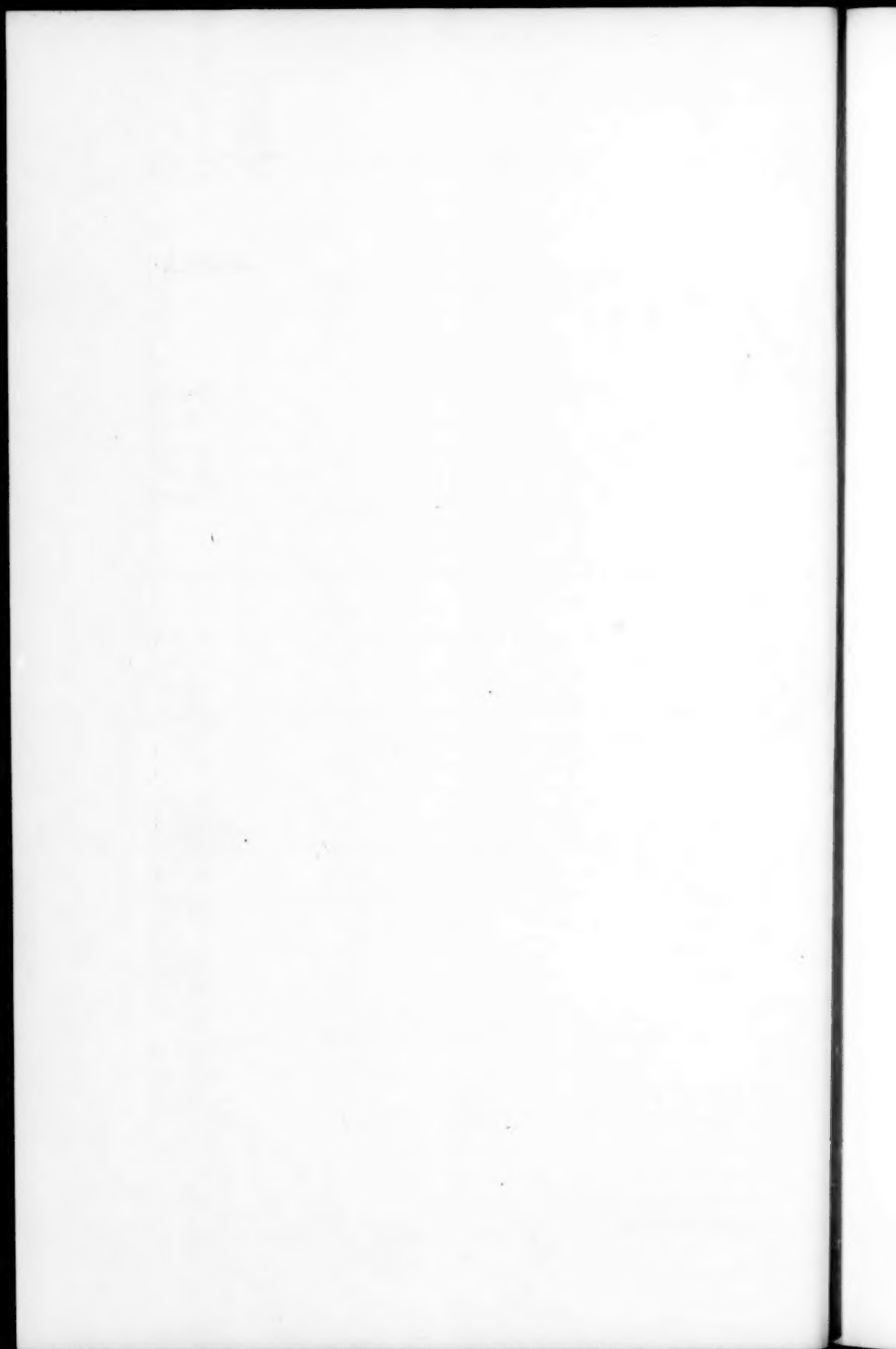
...of...

Louisiana-Mississippi
Section of Mathematical Association
of America

MARCH 4-5, 1927

SHREVEPORT, LOUISIANA

A Challenge to Forward-looking Mathematics Teachers
in the Colleges and the High Schools of
Louisiana and Mississippi.



ANNUAL MEETING

...of...

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI SECTION OF MATHEMATICAL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

March 4-5, 1927

Shreveport, Louisiana

In less than seven weeks Louisiana and Mississippi mathematicians will be moving by train or by automobile to Shreveport to participate in what, it is hoped, will be one of the largest and most significant gatherings of its kind in the history of the country. It is reasonably certain that a more thoroughgoing organized effort to develop and crystallize a corporate professional mathematical consciousness in a territory as large as Louisiana and Mississippi has never before been attempted.

Assuming that we shall be able to find some way of financing a fifth news letter—one for February, by March 1 there will have been mailed out from Baton Rouge nearly six thousand communications (of one sort or another), communications bearing directly on the purposes of the campaign, namely, (1), to increase as much as possible the paid-up memberships in the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of the Mathematical Association of America, (2), to effect a closer professional contact between the high school teachers and the college teachers of mathematics. The definite means for bringing about the latter result has already been named in a previous news letter, as well as in the letter from Professor Slaught, and is further described in a paragraph below where its values are also stressed.

The February News Letter

The February News Letter will be of the greatest importance. It will contain the complete Shreveport program, and other information of value to those planning to attend the convention. While the program, in its entirety, is not yet ready for publication, the announcement now of two or three of its features should be stimulating to all forward-looking mathematicians and mathematics teachers of Mississippi and Louisiana.

**Shreveport Chamber of Commerce to Banquet Visiting
Mathematicians and Mathematics Teachers
Friday Night, March 4, 1927.**

A recent letter from Dean Hardin, of Centenary, contains the following information: "The Shreveport Chamber of Commerce considers our movement and our organization of such importance that they will be glad to give a banquet to all the delegates on Friday night, March 4." What eloquent testimonial this to the remarkable civic spirit of the city of Shreveport, and to the high valuation by its people of the purposes of this campaign!

H. E. Slaught to Speak on "Mathematics and Sunshine"

Professor Slaught, founder of the Mathematical Association of America, managing editor of the "*American Mathematical Monthly*", professor of mathematics at the University of Chicago, and accounted one of the foremost, if not the very foremost, among mathematics teachers of America, will deliver the principal after-dinner address of Friday evening, March 4th. He will speak on "Mathematics and Sunshine." Those who have heard Mr. Slaught know well his ability to set forth with almost unequalled skill the charm, the beauty, and the power of mathematics.

**President Marie Gule of the National Council of
Teachers of Mathematics to be Present.**

Miss Marie Gule, president of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, leading figure in the field of secondary mathematics, author of standard textbooks, will give a lantern slide lecture on "Dynamic Symmetry", and will also direct the part of the program which will be concerned with the establishment and launching of a chapter of the National Council.

**Ex-President Raleigh Schorling of National Council
to Address the Shreveport Convention of
Mathematicians.**

Professor Raleigh Schorling, a past president of the Council, member of the teaching staff of the University High School, University of Michigan, and one of the present leaders in the movement towards unified high school courses in mathematics, will discuss on Friday afternoon the topic, "How to Improve Accuracy in the Use of the Fundamentals."

Editor Clark of the Mathematics Teacher to Participate in the Program.

Editor Clark of the *Mathematics Teacher* in a note to the chairman says, "I think I shall be able to attend the meeting at Shreveport." His topic will probably be announced in the February News Letter.

Chapter of the National Council for Louisiana- Mississippi Territory.

There is strong promise that, under the management of President Gugle, a chapter of the National Council will be organized at Shreveport, and that it will be so articulated with the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of M. A. of A. that the Section and Chapter shall have their yearly meetings at the same time and in the same place, and in such a manner as to permit the freest possible interchange of viewpoints and information between the two great classes of mathematics teachers. Here are

Some Advantages of Such an Arrangement.

(1) A widened and deepened sense of the underlying unity in aims and purposes in the college and the secondary mathematics teaching.

(2) Yearly professional and personal contacts between the younger and the more aspiring mathematics teachers and the more mature and definitely successful figures of the mathematical world.

(3) Annual opportunity for the secondary teacher to get the helpful message from outstanding teachers in the secondary world.

(4) Annual opportunity for the secondary teacher to carry back to his or her class room fresh conceptions of the interrelations of the secondary and the college mathematics fields, and hence to increase effectiveness of teaching.

(5) Annual opportunity of the college mathematics man to get first hand acquaintance with some of the real difficulties encountered by even the best high school teachers in their efforts to sow the beginnings of mathematics in the adolescent mind while, in many cases, they are expected to teach other subjects in addition to mathematics.

(6) Annual opportunity of the high school and the college mathematics teachers to promote a joint and vigorous program, aiming to reduce such deficiencies as those indicated below in Professor Smith's investigations.

(7) Annual opportunity for the Louisiana-Mississippi Section to absorb into its membership those high school teachers who, having been inspired to join the M. A. of A. through observing its activities, have come to desire a participation in those activities and to know more and more of that wonderful science to whose teaching their lives are devoted.

A Stern Challenge to High School and College Mathematics Teachers.

In a recent study I found the following situation among college freshmen. Last year the Iowa Placement Test MT-1 was given to a sample of 1534 freshmen engineers in 18 engineering schools located in various parts of the United States. The following table gives a sample of representative questions with the per cent of students who missed each item.

Divide $5/7$ by $6/11$ _____	25
Multiply $2\ 1/2$ by $3\ 1/4$ _____	35
What per cent of 2 is $3/4$ _____	78
How many factors has $2ad$._____	45
If a and b are integers and their product is a/b , what is b numerically?_____	88

These are only a few of the questions given to show the range of error in a series of 75 questions of this general nature.—
Studies by Prof. C. D. Smith.

Some Recent Communications.

Lake Providence, Louisiana,
January 6, 1927.

Dear Prof. Sanders:-

I have just talked to Supt. Warlick of East Carroll and he has readily consented to send a delegate to the Convention in Shreveport on March 4th and 5th. I do not know just yet who will go, but, if possible, I will go myself. Hoping that the meeting will be a success and that I may have the pleasure of meeting all you people there, I am,

Very truly yours,
GUY H. SOMMERS.

University P. O., Miss.,
January 17, 1927.

Dear Professor Sanders:-

Your letter of the 12th has been read with much interest and pleasure. I thank you for it.

I feel sure that we shall be represented at the next meeting.

Very sincerely yours,
ALFRED HUME, Chancellor.

State Normal College.

Dear Mr. Sanders:-

I read your letter of January 3rd with a great deal of interest. The State Normal College will be glad to send Professor A. C. Maddox, head of our department of mathematics, and Assistant Professor Leora Blair to the Shreveport meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section.

Very sincerely yours,
V. L. ROY, President.

Miss. A. & M. College,
A. & M. College, Miss.

Dear Mr. Sanders:-

I am in receipt of your esteemed favor of January 13 relative to the annual meeting of the Louisiana-Mississippi Section of M. A. of A. I am glad to advise that this institution will have a representative at that meeting. If I cannot come myself I will have our Professor of Mathematics, Mr. Hal Fox, to represent the institution.

I certainly congratulate you upon the splendid work that you have done to further the cause of mathematics and the teaching of mathematics through the agency of this association during the past year. While my duties are so very pressing it is not possible for me to take the time that I would like to devote to the further study of mathematics and mathematical work, but my interest is none the less keen in this field, and I shall be glad at all times to do what I can in the great cause of mathematics and the teaching of mathematics in the south.

I am, with great respect,

Yours very truly,
B. M. WALKER, President.

Louisiana Polytechnic Institute,
Ruston, Louisiana.
January 14, 1927.

Dear Mr. Sanders:-

I wish to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 12th instant and am glad to inform you that the Louisiana Polytechnic Institute will be represented at the meeting of the M. A. of A. in Shreveport on March 4-5, 1927.

Yours truly,
JNO. R. CONNIFF, President.

Louisiana College,
Pineville, Louisiana.
January 14, 1927.

My dear Mr. Sanders:-

I am in receipt of your letter of 12th and will say in reply that we shall be very glad, indeed, to pay the expenses of Prof. C. D. Smith, head of our Mathematics Department, to the meeting in Shreveport.

I greatly appreciate the work that you men are doing to increase the interest in mathematical study, and you may count on me to help in any way that I am able.

Very Sincerely,

C. COTTINGHAM, President.

Bastrop, Louisiana,
January 10, 1927.

Dear Sir:-

I am enclosing a check for two dollars (\$2.00) for membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. I expect to attend the meeting in Shreveport in March.

Yours truly,

LILLIE GREENE.

Vinton, Louisiana,
January 8, 1927.

Dear Sir:-

Enclosed please find check for two (\$2.00) dollars for membership in the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics and their official journal for the current year.

Yours truly,

J. M. BOYET.

Meridian, Miss.,
January 18, 1927.

Dear Mr. Sanders:-

I desire to join both the "National Council of Teacher of Mathematics" and the M. A. of A.

Kindly send me a membership blank.

If possible I expect to attend the meeting of the Council in Shreveport in March.

• Respectfully,

IDA K. SMITH,

Head of Mathematics Department in Meridian High.

From Maj. J. P. Cole, L. P. I. "I hear favorable comment on all sides about the meeting in Shreveport. Our entire staff will be there."

Send your campaign checks and other forms of encouragement to

S. T. SANDERS, *Chairman*
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY,
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA